

Today's News - Friday, September 17, 2010

- Gehl, who "has been quietly, if not slowly, guiding the remaking of New York," holds court for SRO crowd at NYC's Center for Architecture (complete with other Danes "easily identifiable by their...strong jaws and unusually elegant hand gestures" and what Burden and Sadik-Khan wore).
- Calthorpe waxes poetic about Portland's place as global model of TOD.
- RIBA and others slam Young over his view that there is no link between architecture and academic achievement.
- First look at Holl's £50m Glasgow School of Art revamp.
- New NYC gallery (a.k.a. "Norman Foster's Big Red Box") with "a giant, Ferrari-red rectangle climbing inside" is ready for its close-up.
- Scheeren sheers himself from OMA to set up his own shop in Beijing, Hong Kong, and London.
- Fast Company's 2010 Masters of Design (great presentations, as usual - check out BIG as a graphic novel).
- Weekend diversions:
- Africa's "premier urban culture festival" launches in Johannesburg.
- In the Big Apple: Climate Week NY°C, "a global forum to mobilize an international public-private response to climate change," starts Monday.
- Bernstein cheers "Sukkah City," a "harvest of temporary shelters" about to take root in Union Square: "a dozen structures ripe with metaphoric possibilities" + one will be reconstructed in the Center for Architecture + a very interesting explanation of how "rabbinic authority prevailed" over the jury ("when the contest's rabbi told Michael Arad that some of his picks were not kosher, he was flabbergasted").
- A photo exhibition shows "another side of that utopian architectural experiment" that is the Rural Studio.
- Q&A with the curator of MoMA's "Counter Space" re: how women reshaped the modern kitchen.
- Everything you need to know about the London Design Festival, launching tomorrow.
- Pawson x 2 includes a Q&A re: "Plain Space" - his monograph and exhibition at the Design Museum: "You get your best jobs now, when you don't have the energy."
- Gallagher's "Reimagining Detroit" sees the upside of downsizing the city.
- Baillieu re: Prince Charles's new tome: it may not be "gripping stuff. But to see it as just another royal coffee table book is to underestimate his ambition to take the lead in sustainable housing design" + "Architecture and Beauty" asks if architects have a problem with beauty.
- "New Delhi: Making of a capital" reclaims the city's history "in a low-key, powerful way."

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PlaNYC guru plays West Village; gig sold out: Behind Michael Bloomberg's long-term plan for the city is a Danish professor and urban planner named Jan Gehl, who for several years has been quietly, if not slowly, guiding the remaking of New York. -- Janette Sadik-Khan; Amanda Burden- Capital New York

Portland: A Sense of Place: a Global Model of Transit-Oriented Development: ...how have city planners integrated transportation planning into their decision-making over the past 40 years? -- Peter Calthorpe/Calthorpe Associates [video]- Fast Company

Toby Young slammed over design views: RIBA president Ruth Reed has led the profession in a backlash...after he dismissed the importance of school design. Architects lined up to attack...after the free school pioneer told them...not to bother creating cutting-edge buildings because there was no link between architecture and academic achievement.- BD/Building Design (UK)

£50m Glasgow School of Art revamp design unveiled: ...the first in a two-phase project to create an "urban campus" to replace several existing older buildings. -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1909); Steven Holl; JM Architects [images]- BBC News

Red-Hot Steel? Sperone Westwater Gallery Scraps the Bowery Sky: ...translucent mini-skyscraper, clad seductively in glass and corrugated black metal panels...its most innovative touch - a huge, moving, elevatorlike room that's visible from the street as a giant, Ferrari-red rectangle climbing inside the building...has already been dubbed "Norman Foster's Big Red Box" and "the levitating showroom"... -- Foster + Partners [image]- New York Observer

Ole Scheeren announces his new practice: Former OMA partner starts his own firm together with long-time collaborator Eric Chang: Büro Ole Scheeren. Doors open in Beijing, Hong Kong and London. -- Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture- Archinect

Fast Company's 2010 Masters of Design: They are indeed masters of this particular domain. -- Walter Hood; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Patricia Urquiola; Gadi Amit/NewDealDesign; Michael Murphy/Mass Design Group; etc. [images, videos]- Fast Company

Africa's premier urban culture festival comes to Johannesburg: Architecture ZA 2010..21 to 27 September, will feature 100 local and 12 international architects...Architect Africa Film Festival 2010 will also be showing...Themes of Reimagining the City and Post-Event City will open debate about Southern Africa's urban future. -- Fernando Menis; Peter Rich; Andrew Makin.- Media Update (South Africa)

Climate Week NY°C September 20-26: Business, government and NGOs gather in New York City to call for bold climate action that will secure a cleaner, greener, more prosperous future for all. ...a global forum to mobilize an international public-private response to climate change...- The °Climate Group

A Harvest of Temporary Shelters: Union Square will be home, briefly, to a village of 21st-century sukkahs...a dozen structures ripe with metaphoric possibilities...a "People's Choice" sukkah...will stay up through Oct. 2. (An exhibition about the sukkahs will open at the Center for Architecture on Wednesday.) By Fred A. Bernstein -- Ronald Rael/Virginia San Fratello; Matter Practice; SO-IL; Henry Grosman; TheVeryMany; Dale Suttle/So Sugita/Ginna Nguyen; Matthias Karch [links, slide show]- New York Times

"Sukkah City": One of the winning schemes, Shim Sukkah, by tinder.tinker (David Getty, Matthew Jacobs, Stephanie Gunawan) will be reconstructed in the Center for Architecture's galleries...September 22 - October 30 - Center for Architecture (NYC)

Temporary Housing Of The Highest Order: Sukkah competition in Union Square to highlight modernist designs conformed to ancient architectural principles...when the contest's rabbi told Michael Arad that some of his picks were not kosher, he was flabbergasted...in the end, rabbinic authority prevailed.- The Jewish Week

The World of the Rural Studio: "Mix 'n' Match," a photography exhibition by Cynthia Connolly...in downtown New York, shows that inventive architecture was not all that came out of that intensely creative place...showing us another side of that utopian architectural experiment.- Metropolis Magazine

How Women Reshaped the Modern Kitchen: "Counter Space: Design and the Modern Kitchen" at the Museum of Modern Art...explore the way the kitchen has evolved since the start of the 20th century. Juliet Kinchin, the curator talked about the role women played in designing rational kitchens... -- Philippe Starck; Peter Behrens; Christine Frederick; Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky- New York Times

London Design Festival: a nine-day celebration of design in the world's creative capital...over 200 events and exhibitions staged by around 160 partner organisations across the design spectrum and from around the world...September 18-26- London Design Festival

The Father of Modern Architectural Minimalism: Questions for the British architect John Pawson, who has a new monograph out next month..."John Pawson: Plain Space"...A show of the same title opens Sept. 22 at the London Design Museum, which [he] has been hired to redesign.- New York Times

Making room for space: John Pawson has created an installation for the Design Museum as part of an exhibition celebrating his 30-year career...At the heart of "Plain Space" is a site-specific, full-sized installation...to offer a direct contact with his work - the first such installation at the museum.- The Wharf (UK)

Book sees an upside to downsizing Detroit: "Reimagining Detroit," by John Gallagher: ...when we shun the idea of a smaller city, we hinder our ability to capitalize on the advantages of being smaller...we can foster a more entrepreneurial economy, nimble rather than sluggish...we can create new models of local leadership. The challenge is to see beyond the heartache and grasp the opportunity.- Detroit Free Press

Will the prince crack the code? "Tradition & Sustainability"...Prince Charles's latest effort is not gripping stuff. But to see it as just another royal coffee table book is to underestimate his ambition to take the lead in sustainable housing design. + Ugly and proud of it: Do architects have a problem with beauty? ask Yael Reisner and Fleur Watson in their new book "Architecture and Beauty" By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

"New Delhi: Making of a capital" by Malvika Singh, Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Pramod Kapoor: As global power shifts eastward, a new book charting the birth of New Delhi reclaims the city's history...not political or academic in its approach...a coffee table book for India's growing middle-classes...which provides them with the cultural authority to claim and reconstruct their past in a low-key, powerful way.- BD/Building Design (UK)



Richard Meier & Partners: Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills, California

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